

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLEASANTON
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
March 20, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Committee on Energy and Environment was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Steve Motzko, Sophia Holbrook, Timothy Shurtleff, Roger Harris, Robert Jayson and Brett Illers

Absent: Steve Dennis

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Opening remarks by Chair, Steve Motzko.
Steve welcomed the committee and verified the committee's 2014 meeting dates. He thanked Daniel Smith for his emcee work at the water event in Dublin. He shared that the city council voted on the East Pleasanton Specific Plan, 4-1 and the project will go forward. Their next meeting is in May.
2. The January 22, 2013 meeting minutes were approved. Motion by Shurtleff, seconded by Illers. All were in favor.
3. Drought Update:
Daniel shared that the city council declared a drought in February, asking residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce water consumption by 20%. He has held and/or attended many meetings with different stakeholders spreading the word and educating people about the need to reduce water consumption. He is now educating city staff on educating our residents. The Drought Action Committee, which formed in early March, along with a marketing firm, are working together to find solutions on community outreach.
4. Water Conservation Program:
Rita DiCandia, the city's water conservation manager, shared with the committee, an outlook of Pleasanton's water supply. How water arrives in Pleasanton, and the blend. She told us about the breakdown of water used in town, single family residents using the most water with irrigation falling in second. She reminded us the Pleasanton's Climate Action Plan (CAP) stipulates that we reduce 20% potable water by 2020 and where we are to date with that target. She then explained why we are in a drought situation this year, with averages of rain and snowpack being so low this year.

With zero water from the State Water Project, Zone 7 Water Agency, the city's supplier, will have to rely on storage water to provide water to its customers. The City of Pleasanton can also rely on their wells to pump water for its residents. But we still may fall into a shortage if we don't get to conserving water immediately.

Recent trends show increases of water consumption since November. We reduced consumption in February, but overall the last 4 months we've increase usage by 17% overall.

The city is taking action and has declared a Stage 1 drought emergency, which requires a 20% voluntary reduction in water consumption. Community education is in progress. Use of recycled water is ongoing and upcoming projects being considered.

There are several water conservation programs in place for residents and commercial use, from toilet rebates to free indoor devices. The city also has a Controller Assistance Program. There are many rebates in place to help residents and commercial users alike.

Some questions from the committee arose:

- Where do rebate monies come from? Zone 7 Water Agency gets their money from retailers and grants. The City of Pleasanton gets money from rate payers.
- What is the state doing to address a long drought? On March 7th, several heads of state shared conversation that is immediate. Short term solution is recycled water. \$800 million has been authorized to be used on recycled water projects, with 1% loans. Long term, new reservoirs could be built.
- Would the highest tiered rate for water be doubled or tripled? People don't conserve until they have to. Penalties will be in place to handle a mandatory status. The city's ordinance has been updated and approved by the city council. Copies of the ordinance will be emailed to the committee members.
- Can we take the extra rate money and roll into rebates? Monies collected will not be rates, they will be penalties. Utilities in California cannot make money. Monies have to go back into the utility itself.
- An HOA has a park as part of its development. They are trying to decide what to do with the park. Can the city help? Yes, they can call the city's hotline (925) 931-5504 for assistance.
- As we get less rain, how do residents know about the controller program? We have doorknockers we can place as issues arise with water leaks.
- Should the city consider offering some type of device so residents could know their water usage on a regular basis? The city has a \$4,000,000 CIP, which has already been approved, for an automated meter infrastructure (AMI). We've been beta testing for about 3 years, and are close to going into an AMI. This system will give us instantaneous reads, hour by hour.

5. LED Light Project Update:

Daniel shared that 2,100 lights are installed to date. Deco led lights will just be a bulb replacement, which are still being tested. That decision will be made soon.

6. Energy Education Programs 2014:

Daniel shared that during the next 3-4 months he will continue educating many groups on our current drought situation. He will keep the committee informed of events he would like to see them present at.

We are looking at a LED vendor coming out in summer to educate retrofitting businesses and homes. As Title 24 plumbing changes, we can have someone speak to the committee, possibly from the city's Building Department.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

None

MATTERS INITIATED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

None

REPORTS ON CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ATTENDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

A conversation between members took place regarding Tesla Corporation.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. Motion by Holbrook, seconded by Illers. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dora Lozano